



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Jaime E. RAMIREZ-VICK, et al.

Application Serial No. 09/997,475

Filed: November 19, 2001

For: **MAGNETIC FIELD ENHANCED  
HYBRIDIZATION OF TARGET  
MOLECULES TO IMMOBILIZED  
PROBES**

) Examiner: Forman, Betty J.

) Art Unit: 1634

) Confirmation No. 6193

) Attorney's Docket No. 25527-0003 C1

) Customer No. 25213

---

**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL 976 543 046 US**

**Date Mailed: NOVEMBER 12, 2003**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop RCE**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The present communication accompanies a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-indicated application, and is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 12, 2003 and the Office communication mailed on October 24, 2003. This response is timely filed, being mailed on the date that is three-months from the date of mailing of the Office Action. The consideration of the arguments and amendments presented below is respectfully requested.